

REMARKS

Applicants elect the invention of Group I for further prosecution in this application, without traverse. In light of this election, applicants have cancelled claims 45, 46, 52, 53, 61, 62, 64, and 66. The cancellation of these claims is without prejudice to applicants' ability to file and obtain patent protection for claims directed to this cancelled subject matter in applications claiming priority to the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Applicants also elect as a species compound number III-a-232, which may be found in Table 1, on page 70 of the specification.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12-15, 17, 18, 20, 32, and 37 are amended to delete reference to non-elected subject matter.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 20, 21, 26, 29, and 32 to replace the term "derivative or prodrug" with ---salt---.

Claims 1, 10, 20, 32, and 37 are amended to include the specific groups intended by the term "linker group". Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 12, line 24 through page 13, line 8.

Applicants amend claim 42 to replace the term "therapeutic agent" with a list of specific therapeutics. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at page 27, lines 1-30.

Claim 41 is amended to include the "effective amount" recitation.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are due at this time however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of additional fees required in connection with the paper transmitted herewith, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0725.

None of these amendments adds new matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea L. C. Robidoux

Registration No. 47,902

Agent for Applicant(s)

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED

130 Waverly Street

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tel.: (617)444-6731

Fax.: (617)444-6438